



InTouch

SARISBURY & WHITELEY – Autumn 2018

Planning strategy in turmoil as Whitehall imposes more houses

Fareham's planning strategy is in tatters due to the Government's 'crazily inflated housing figures'.

It is in such disarray that officers have been told to tear up the Draft Local Plan and add even more houses to those already proposed.

Intensive lobbying of Housing Minister Kit Malthouse and senior civil servants by the Council Leader and Fareham and Gosport MPs fell on deaf ears.

Only 3 months ago we highlighted Whitehall's imposition of 30% more houses equating to allocation of another 2,000 on greenfield sites.

But the baffling criteria continue to change like the wind.

Council Leader Seán Woodward said: "The government will allow councils to submit plans on their original figures (for Fareham 420 houses per year) rather than in Fareham's case an additional 30% (544 houses per year) if they can get them in by January.

"Apart from being an impossible timescale to reach, the result of submitting such a plan would probably mean that after it was adopted the Council would need promptly to review it on the basis of the new figures, putting us back to square one.

"Coupled with that, the Government will impose an additional 20% 'buffer' on Fareham for failing to deliver the new figures over the last few years.

"That is based on the figure imposed on the Council just 3 months ago – rather like being failed in an exam for incorrectly answering a question that was not even in the syllabus!"

Councillor Woodward asked for the following assurances so the Council could submit its current Draft Plan for inspection:

- Protection from the Housing Delivery Test which will increase numbers a further 20%
- Appeals to be judged on current need in the Draft Plan
- Once adopted, no requirement to review the Draft Plan immediately based on the new numbers being far higher than Fareham's actual need.

"Despite the Council's commitment to deliver 6,000 new homes in one of the country's largest new communities, Wel-



NO MINISTER! Nothing to smile about when Kit Malthouse refused to budge after meeting Fareham MP Suella Braverman, Council Leader Seán Woodward and Deputy Leader Trevor Cartwright.

borne Garden Village, as well as an additional 2,000 on greenfield sites elsewhere, ministers have failed to give us the required assurances.

"Reluctantly, we have asked officers to commence work on a new Local Plan to accommodate the Government's crazily inflated housing numbers.

"We will now spend 2019 bringing that new Draft Plan through public consultation and onwards so that a public inquiry can be held.

"Throughout this period we will remain at risk of the Government making further changes to the numbers and, therefore, at risk of hostile planning applications and appeals.

"Without doubt strategic countryside gaps could be at very real risk due to the Government's insistence on Fareham building too many houses.

"I would also like to reflect on the assurances given by Planning Minister Brandon Lewis that appeals would be judged on the 2015 Plan figures which proved worthless when the Cranleigh Road refusal was overturned leading to a developer frenzy.

"Finally, we have the very recent issue of the Office for National Statistics figures which demonstrate that far from a need for 300,000 new houses a year nationally, the need is actually only 213,000, meaning that Fareham currently has sufficient planning consents to last the required 5 years.

"The government has made its intention clear that it will insist on disregarding the new ONS figures thereby pushing the requirement back up again."

Fareham MP Suella Braverman and Gosport MP Caroline Dinenage said they were "bitterly disappointed" that Fareham would not be allowed to proceed with its original plan.

Suella Braverman said: "This has not been an easy matter to resolve.

"We need to build more and better houses to support people in owning or renting their own homes and Fareham Borough Council has been working hard to deliver.

"I was pleased to enable extensive discussions between the Government and Fareham BC but am disappointed that we were ultimately unable to find a way for Fareham BC to proceed with its original Local Plan."

NEWS ROUND



RAF centenary saluted

Fareham Borough Council was delighted to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Royal Air Force with the Mayor, Leader and Flight Lieutenant Paul Woodhouse and SAC Brogan Hook from RAF (U) Swanwick, the RAF base that many people will not have heard of but which is based at the Swanwick Air Traffic Control Centre.

Flying at Solent Airport, formerly HMS Daedalus, actually pre-dated the formation of the RAF by one year.



Fly in a Spitfire

Fareham's Innovation Centre at Solent Airport at Daedalus proved so popular, with hundreds of new jobs and filled to capacity that the Borough Council rapidly extended it to include more workshops and dozens of offices.

The extension is now filling rapidly. The Bridge Conference Centre was recently opened by the Mayor, Councillor Susan Bayford and Council Leader Seán Woodward.



We are also delighted to welcome the Boulton Paul Spitfire to one of the new business hangars at the airport flying people daily on local flights.

Church centenary

Councillor Seán Woodward was delighted to be invited to open the Sarisbury United Reformed Church centenary exhibition in the church on November 9.

New hut is a hit with Scouts

It arrived in sections and called for careful logistics and some traffic management to get it on to the site.

Excited members of 1st Sarisbury Scouts watched as their new hut was off-loaded at Burr ridge Village Hall during the summer.

Councillor Jon Butts said the impressive structure had been erected and made weather tight.

"Internal works are in progress to install services and enable final fitting out and decoration."

The hut should be in use by Christmas and encourage more volunteers to make Scouting available to more youngsters.

PHOTO: Councillor Seán Woodward lends a hand.



10 years at the crease of top cricket league

Ten years in the Southern Premier League were celebrated by Sarisbury Athletic Cricket Club.

They lease the Allotment Road recreation ground from Fareham Borough Council and also play occasional matches at the home of local cricket, Sarisbury Green.

Councillor Seán Woodward, who joined them for the celebrations, said: "I have followed the progress – always upwards – of Sarisbury Athletic for many years.

"They are a credit to our Borough and I trust them to keep their ground, our recreation ground, in pristine condition and they never let me or local residents down."



Hospital could gain breast screening service

Blood tests are to be mostly removed from Fareham Community Hospital and referred back to GPs.

"This is an unnecessary blow to the hospital which has been providing increasing numbers of services and is still only 50% used," said County Councillor Seán Woodward.

However, he also had some good news after meeting Dr Jonathan Nash, consultant in charge of the breast screening service, to discuss moving it permanently into the hospital in time for the next round of screening in 2020.

Councillor Woodward said Portsmouth Hospitals Trust had decided to end the blood test contract for the GP-led service, handing it back to Fareham and Gosport Clinical Commissioning Group which had passed it back to GPs.

The consultant and GP-led service at the Community



Hospital performed 9,000 tests annually, administration being done free by the Hospital Friends.

In future, tests will have to be done at GP surgeries, adding to pressures of parking and space, although Whiteley patients will have a choice of their local sur-

gery or the hospital.

He said the providers' excuse was that patients preferred to have tests at their GP surgeries. "Thousands clearly wish to attend the hospital so I find that hard to believe," he said.

A renal dialysis service should also be starting at the hospital next year but sadly the Red Cross medical loans depot will remain in Fareham Health Centre.

On the breast screening issue, he said Dr Nash and colleagues supported moving screening to the hospital and were working with the administration to find the best place to site it.

Councillor Woodward added: "Ladies availing themselves of the all-important breast screening service deserve more dignity than a lorry in a supermarket car park."

PHOTO: Seán Woodward chats to members of the Hospital Friends Jill Sadler (left) and Sally Matson.

Volunteers step in to save Parish Rooms

A new generation of volunteers has stepped in to save the historic Sarisbury Parish Rooms from closing.

It was feared the village could lose the 126-year-old landmark through lack of support.

After we featured the crisis in the summer In Touch, a community meeting called by the current trustees discussed future options and there was



strong support for the rooms to remain open.

Councillor Jon Butts said: "A new generation of volunteers stepped up to ensure that it does. It was encouraging to see our community pulling together.

"A special mention for Jane Swanbrow, who led the meeting, which agreed a transition plan for volunteers to observe at the next two committee meetings before taking up the reins in May 2019."

Work share keeps hall going

Good news from Burr ridge Village Hall (BVH), which has a new treasurer and an additional committee member to share the work that keeps the hall available for a wide range of community activities.

A caretaker chairman has stepped forward from the committee enabling current chairman Ken Potheary to stand down, having moved out of Burr ridge some time ago.

Following a BVH request, Fareham Council has added several new overflow car parking spaces that use weight-bearing lattices under the grass beside the southern boundary hedge.

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COME AND JOIN US

If you support Conservative principles and would like to vote to select your Council and Parliamentary candidates, to attend social and political events or help us by delivering InTouch in your street, why not join Sarisbury Branch of Fareham Conservative Association? Please call Jon Butts on 07464 847852.

WE SERVE YOU ALL

Whether you voted for us or not, your Conservative councillors promise the highest standards of service to everyone in the community. Contact us any time and we'll respond personally within 48 hours.

Deputies' efforts earn a victory over developers



Deputations to the planning committee by several Sarisbury residents contributed to unanimous refusal of an application for 62 houses at Swanwick Lane.

Members learned it was in conflict with 15 different local plan policies.

Councillor Seán Woodward said there were fears about highway safety, impact on Swanwick Lakes Nature Reserve and loss of a significant countryside gap between Swanwick and Burr ridge.

The committee then refused a development of 8 properties in Botley Road, Burr ridge, where there were more concerns about highway safety, precedent, lack of contributions towards affordable housing and the lack of impact on the Council's housing land supply.

PHOTO: Residents Claire, Gemma and Nicola, who all made excellent deputations, celebrate the Botley Road decision with Seán Woodward.

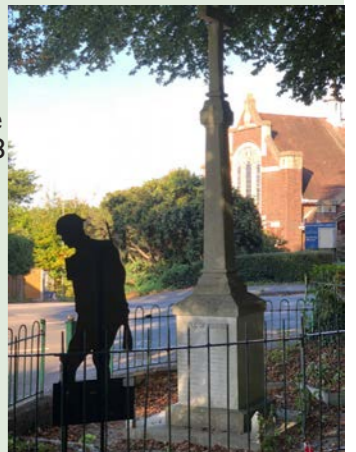
Soldier silhouettes

To mark the centenary of the end of World War I, The Royal British Legion invites the public to to say 'Thank You' to the generation who fought and sacrificed.

Sponsored by the Borough Council, 8 near life-size Silent Soldier silhouettes have been unveiled – one each week – at locations across the Borough, including St Paul's Church, Sarisbury (pictured).

They depict 'Tommy' returning home silently after the war and will remain until the end of next year.

They have also been placed at Fareham Railway Station, Warsash Victory Hall and Stubbington and Portchester war memorials.





Britain has good reason for post-Brexit optimism



We have every reason to look forward to life outside the EU.

After some tough years following the recession our economy is growing strongly, firms are starting up and unemployment is at a record low.

Under Conservatives people are more likely to be in work than ever before, are paying typically £1000 less income tax than in 2010 and are saving £850 in taxes at the petrol pump.

The number of people in absolute poverty is at a record low, disposable incomes are higher in real terms than 2010 and our national living wage means the salary of a full-time worker previously on the minimum wage is now £2000 higher.

Labour would limit our ability to make the most of Brexit, taking us all back to square one.

And they would attack businesses that create jobs, pay taxes that fund our public services and provide the products and services people need.

Suella

BRAVERMAN MP for Fareham

I held my annual Health Summit at Fareham Community Church where over 100 local people attended to ask questions and share their views about local health services.

Thank you to health bosses of Fareham and Gosport CCG, QA Hospital, Dr Tom Bertram and the CEO of Southern Health who attended to listen to Fareham residents.

People are rightly worried about the loss of phlebotomy and eye testing at Fareham Community Hospital as well as the need for a more accessible breast-screening service.

And it was great to hear how people are welcoming the Same Day Access Service at FCH thanks to the collaboration of local GPs.

If you would like to attend my frequent local events, join my mailing list at Suella@suellabraverman.co.uk.



Housing and planning matters are worrying local residents too. That's why I have talked directly to the Secretary of State for Housing, James Brokenshire, with fellow Gosport MP Caroline Dinenege.

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Fareham's flower power wins golds galore



Fareham is celebrating another year of success at the South and South East in Bloom Awards.

The Borough received its 15th consecutive winning

entry in the Small City category, receiving a gold award and was declared category winner.

Fareham in Bloom received the County Award for the highest marked entry in Hampshire.

Winners included Sarisbury C of E Junior School, who won silvers in the allotments and schools' gardening projects categories.

After receiving the awards from Fareham Mayor Susan Bayford, children are pictured with (left) Ben Kimble, Mayor's Consort Brian Bayford and headmaster Andy Stockton.

Bursledon Brickworks won silver in the business parks and commercial landscape category and silver gilt in the wildlife garden category. Pam Formby is pictured with the awards.

Lockswold Bowling Club's Level 5 entry was given an 'outstanding' award and Fareham's parks and gardens also came out with top awards, including golds for Holly Hill Woodland Park and Warsash Common.



Borough's newest park is proving major attraction



Coldeast Park is the original parkland, woodland and lake of the former Coldeast Hospital.

Councillor Seán Woodward said: "It now belongs to the Borough Council and is kept in good condition by Council rangers and a team of volunteers.

"It complements nearby Holly Hill Woodland Park and is proving very popular. It boasts a lake, community orchard, woodland walks, a children's play park and sports pitches – not to mention the fantastic Holly Hill Leisure Centre."

Interpretation boards have been provided telling visitors what to look for.

PHOTO: Seán Woodward with Ranger Helen Sosnowski and Dan and Rosemary Powell who produced the interpretation boards.